



OLSON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND HANDBOOK

Brian Hadley
Band Director

Steven Emerson
Principal

Domonique Gilmer
Assistant Principal

Dear musician,

Welcome to the Olson Middle School Band Program!

This short handbook will provide useful information about being a band student at Olson. Students and parents/guardians need to read this handbook carefully and then both you and your parent/guardian sign on the last page, which you will then detach and give back to me. Please keep this packet with the performance/event schedule and class information for reference.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your child's music education or if you are interested in volunteering or helping at school. Thank you,

Brian Hadley, Olson Band Director

brian.hadley@mpls.k12.mn.us

612-668-8386 voice mail

612-668-1640 school office

Why Learn Music in School?

Because Music . . .

- develops skills needed by the 21st Century workforce: critical and analytical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication, teamwork and more
- keeps students engaged in school and less likely to drop out
- improves the atmosphere for learning
- helps students achieve in other academic subjects like math, science, and reading
- helps communities share ideas and values among cultures and generations
- is a disciplined human endeavor with intrinsic value to society
- provides students with the opportunity to:
 - express themselves in verbal and non-verbal ways
 - appreciate diverse perspectives, openness and flexibility in thinking
 - develop a high level of self-awareness and self-confidence
 - take risks and solve problems creatively
 - embrace a variety of ways to gain insights about cultural and historical issues
 - develop a rich and healthy sense of beauty and imagination.

(reprinted from "Why Learn to Play Music", <http://www.nammfoundation.org>)

Areas of Focus

Musical Performance is the main process of learning in band. Learning happens only when students actively **participate** in all learning activities and performances.

- **Instrument Skills** – students learn and practice the physical techniques to producing a quality tone on their chosen instrument.
- **Ensemble Skills** – students learn to make music as a group, understanding how their instrument fits into the total sound of the band. Students learn to respect others and themselves when they become part of the team working together for a common goal.
- **Music Literacy** – students must learn to identify musical notes, rhythms, and melodic patterns by ear and by sight. This involves ear training as well as learning to read/write musical notation and understand/use musical vocabulary. They will listen to other musicians and discover different musical styles along with the related world and music history.

Event/Performance Calendar

- Saturday, September 30, 2017 – Saturday trip to watch the marching band competition at Irondale H.S. (optional)
- Tuesday, October 17, 2017 Perform at Victory Health Center
- Thursday, October 26, 2017 – Concert 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 7, 2017 – Concerts 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 19, 2018 – Field trip to Henry H.S.
- Thursday, February 22, 2018 – Perform at Black History Celebration
- Thursday, March 15, 2018 – Music Recital 6:30 p.m. (optional)
- Friday, May 4, 2018 – Tour to Elementary Schools and Mall of America
- Thursday, May 17, 2018 – Concerts 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, June 1 – Perform at School Carnival Talent Show (optional)
- Tuesday, June 12 – Perform for 8th grade Recognition (6th and 7th grade)

Performance Attire

Concerts: Black pants or long skirt, black shoes/socks and Olson Band Shirt
Other performances: Band T-shirt and blue jeans

Band Behavior Policy

The Olson Band is essentially a music team. The actions of any individual can either help or hinder the entire group in both rehearsal and performance. Self-discipline is not optional; it is required. Those with repeated infractions of this policy will be removed from the class at the director's discretion.

"WE R4 THE OLSON WAY"

BE NICE (Respect Self, Respect Others, Respect Environment):

- Be Safe (no running, play fighting, etc.)
- Be Respectful (no disrupting class or being unkind)
- Be Responsible (treat instruments and materials/equipment with care)

WORK HARD (Respect Learning):

- Be Present (on time and in your assigned spot for full rehearsal)
- Be Prepared (have instrument, music, pencil, practiced music)
- Be Actively Participating (in all activities)

Students will receive a redirection, then a warning "Yellow Card" that includes a choice of strategy to use to get back into following the rules. Continued infraction of the rules results in a "Red Card", a phone call home and removal from instruction to meet with a Reflection Specialist. This also results in the student losing daily points for that day.

There will be a special celebration in class for 30 consecutive days without any "Red Cards"

Band Grading System

Students will develop musical skills at different rates. However, any student who attends class regularly, actively and respectfully participates in band rehearsal activities, performs at concerts, completes assignments (weekly practice logs, performance reflections, theory sheets, etc.) will learn and those who are learning will earn an A.

Achievement of Learning Targets is indicated using a 4 point system: 1 attempted, 2 approaching standard, 3 meets the standard, 4 exceeds the standard. These 1 – 4 point scores for the Learning Targets are added up to make the final letter grade for each quarter. Students demonstrate achievement by the **accumulation of points** during the quarter from assignments, quizzes, playing tests, along with participation in activities, lessons and performances.

The score or grade of each learning target is determined by using this percentage scale:

80 - 100% = 4 (A)

60 - 79% = 3 (B)

50 - 59% = 2 (C)

40 - 49 % = 1 (D)

0 - 39% = 0 (F)

The Musicianship learning target makes up most (80%) of the quarter grade.

Learning Targets

1. Knowing and Understanding (music vocabulary, notation and theory quizzes)
2. Developing Skills (instrument playing assignments and assessments)
3. Thinking Creatively (improvising and composing assignments)
4. Responding (performance reflections/music listening assignments)
5. Musicianship (80% of total grade and determined by earning points.)
 - a. Meeting all band rehearsal expectations – 5 points per rehearsal
 - b. Practicing to improve my skills – 10 points per week
 - c. Lessons – 5 points per lesson
 - d. Performing at concerts – 50 points each performance *

***Performance is a primary function of the class as it provides an experience that cannot be reproduced in the classroom. Therefore attendance at performances is required.**

- Written excuses that are valid may be considered when submitted at least two weeks prior to the concert.
- For students with an excused absence from the concert, an alternate performance assignment will be given to make up the points.
- Students must wear the appropriate concert attire for performances. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of 25 points.

Band Procedures and Routines

1. Have good attendance. Missing class, even if excused, will negatively affect your grade as you will not receive daily points for days missed. Skipping any one class also counts as a full-day unexcused absence.
2. Be on time. Stay in the room. Don't leave early. Students who leave class without permission are marked as Truant. Teachers and office staff provide students with a pass if they need to travel to class outside of the normal passing time between periods.
3. Keep the band room clean. Don't have food, candy, gum, drinks (a bottle of water is ok), slime or anything that will make a mess.
4. Bring your instrument home to practice and then bring it back to school for band. Instruments can be set on the table outside the band room. Take care of all the music, materials, instruments, music stands, chairs and equipment. Damage to anything, whether intentional or due to carelessness, may result in loss of privilege to use, and possibly a fine and/or removal from the band.
5. Passes – Only two reasons for passes from band room during rehearsal:
 - Restroom use should take place during passing time, or at lunch/recess. If an emergency, ask for the pass for restroom during the first or last 5 minutes of attendance and instrument assembly. Only one person at a time. Use the cafeteria restrooms. Limit of 5 passes each quarter.
 - Nurse passes will be allowed for injury, fever, stomachache or other valid reason. Abuse of this pass will be counted at truancy (skipping)
6. Lessons – Students will periodically require individual or small group lessons with the band director outside of the band class. A schedule and sign-up process will be created and lesson passes will be issued after coordinating with other teachers.

Private Lessons

Students are encouraged to take private lessons outside of school. These one-on-one lessons with working musicians help address issues specific to each particular instrument. There are many local musicians providing lessons at a reasonable cost.

Taking Care of the Band Instrument

Instruments are quite expensive and need special care. Please refer to the instrument rental form and instrument care guide for specific information. **Never, ever, ever try and fix an instrument yourself.** It can just get damaged further. I will send it to the shop for expert repair. Keep them clean, dry, away from heat and cold, and away from pets and small children.

Practicing at Home

At least 30 minutes of practice time outside of band class each day is required for students to develop and maintain the various muscles and fine motor skills needed to make the instrument produce a quality sound. For best results, designate a regular time and quiet space in your home for music practice.

Every band member should have the following accessories at home for daily practice:

- Music Stand
- Metronome – Metronome 9 is a good app if you don't want a real metronome
- Tuner – Cleartune app is good as well

Funding Request

There are many expenses involved with playing an instrument. Here are some expenses that the school can help provide:

- Instrument
- Musical instrument instruction books and music to play
- Drum sticks (if percussionist)
- Instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, cork grease, etc.).

Olson asks for a **suggested donation of \$25*** to help provide these materials for your child to use. If this is too much for you at this time, please donate what you can and know that your child will still be able to participate in band. (*You may always donate more if you wish to help cover donation for those who cannot contribute.)

Please complete BOTH SIDES of this form and return it by _____

Student Name:	
Parent Name:	
Address:	
Parent Phone/Text:	
Parent Email:	

Parent Service Opportunities (check if interested):

- I am willing to help with evening concerts (set-up/clean-up, etc.)
- I can play the piano and am available to be an accompanist for students
- I can play a band instrument and would like to mentor beginners
- Fundraising/Boosters
- Chaperoning on field trips

Donation

Please include your donation (cash or check) with this form. Make checks payable to "Olson Middle School" with "Band Donation for (student's name)" written in the memo line.

I am able to help cover the costs of instruments, books, music and supplies.

- Enclosed is the suggested donation of \$25
- Enclosed is a larger donation of \$_____ (Thank You!)

We need a scholarship as we are unable to donate the full amount.

- Enclosed is a contribution of \$_____

By signing below, I state that I have read and understood and agree to the information, policies and expectations outlined in the Olson M.S. Band Handbook.

(student signature)

(date)

(parent signature)

(date)